

could save us from a tax rate increase. I understand that later on there is going to be a Farmers in Transition Program amendment offered and, of course, this is real important to the rural areas, but I voted against it last week because I didn't know where we would find the 2 1/2 or the \$250,000, I guess it was, a quarter of a million dollars. Now I understand that that amount will be lowered. In Nebraska at the present time we have a 7 percent unemployment rate so this means that there is a lot of people, there is a lot of people out there looking for jobs and if we can tone this increase down a little bit for the state employees, well I think they will at least have a job. We won't have to lay off any of the state employees. Otherwise, we may have to. Another part of the bill that is very important is going to the Court of Industrial Relations and I'm afraid if we leave the 3 percent in this bill, on Final Reading it will just fail to garner the necessary 25 votes. So I would urge you to support the 2 percent increase for state employees at this time.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Hefner. The question is, shall the Hefner amendment to LB 1250 be adopted? All those in favor will vote aye, those opposed will vote no. Have you all voted? We're voting on the Hefner amendment to LB 1250. Have you all voted? I'll wait another 15 seconds. Have you all voted? Record the vote, Mr. Clerk. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: A record vote.

SENATOR CARSTEN: A record vote has been requested.

CLERK: (Record vote read as found on pages 1823-24 of the Legislative Journal.) 12 ayes, 21 nays, Mr. President, on the amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN: The motion fails. Before we proceed the Chair would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you 38 fourth graders from Christ Lutheran School in Norfolk with their teachers. They are guests of Senator Richard Peterson. We welcome you to the Legislature and, if you will stand, we will welcome you with a round of applause. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Warner. The question is, shall the bill be advanced? All those in favor will vote aye, those opposed will vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.